

Charting Brazil's development

The last ten years have brought sustained improvements to the lives of millions of Brazilians. A stable economy has provided a platform for genuinely inclusive growth, which has reduced poverty and inequality.

While further progress is urgently needed, Brazil's development has outpaced most other countries. Many African countries are now keen to learn from the Brazilian experience. This is why:

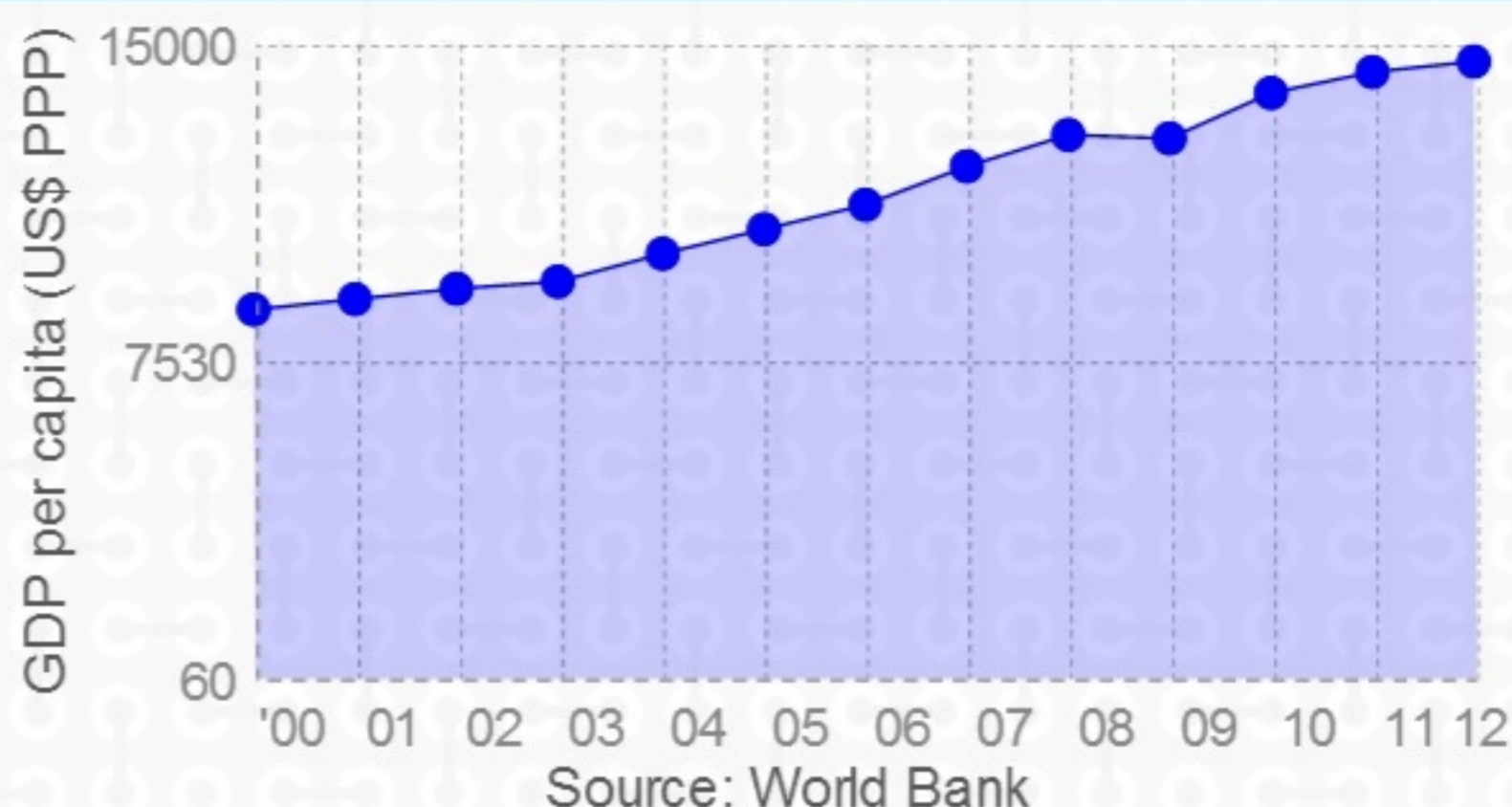
Inclusive growth has reduced poverty & inequality



Poverty has fallen

Brazil has lifted an estimated 40 million people out of poverty in the last ten years. The Economist attributed this progress "thanks largely to government policy".

Social assistance schemes such as Bolsa Familia, have been important and often grab the headlines. However Brazil has pursued a wide range of innovative, and often integrated social and economic policies.



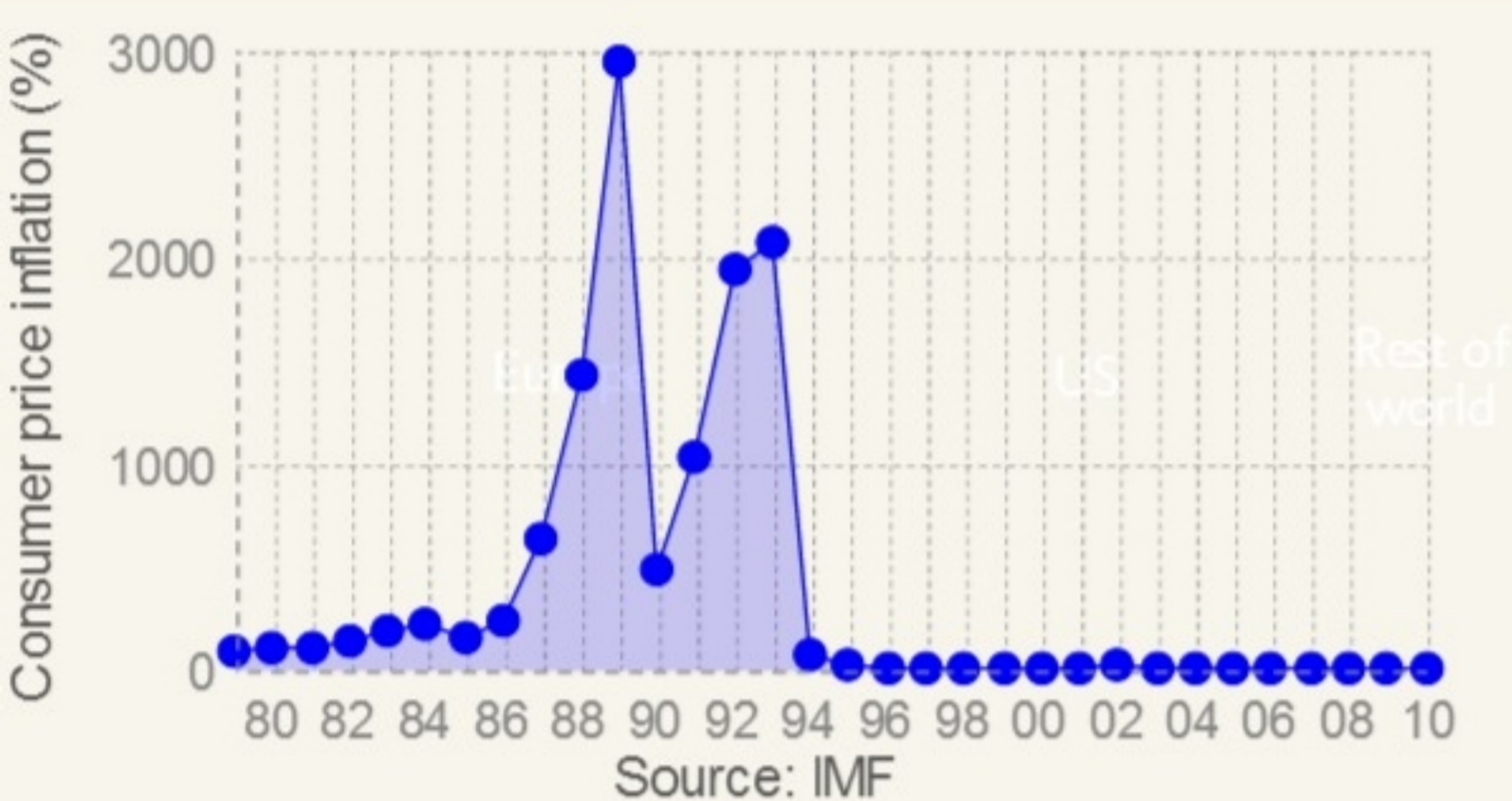
GDP per capita has risen

Between 2000-2008 the Brazilian economy grew at an average rate of 5.1% and is currently around 2%.

While all sections of society saw their incomes rise, the poorest benefited most. Unlike most other countries, Brazil has reduced levels of inequality over the last 10 years.

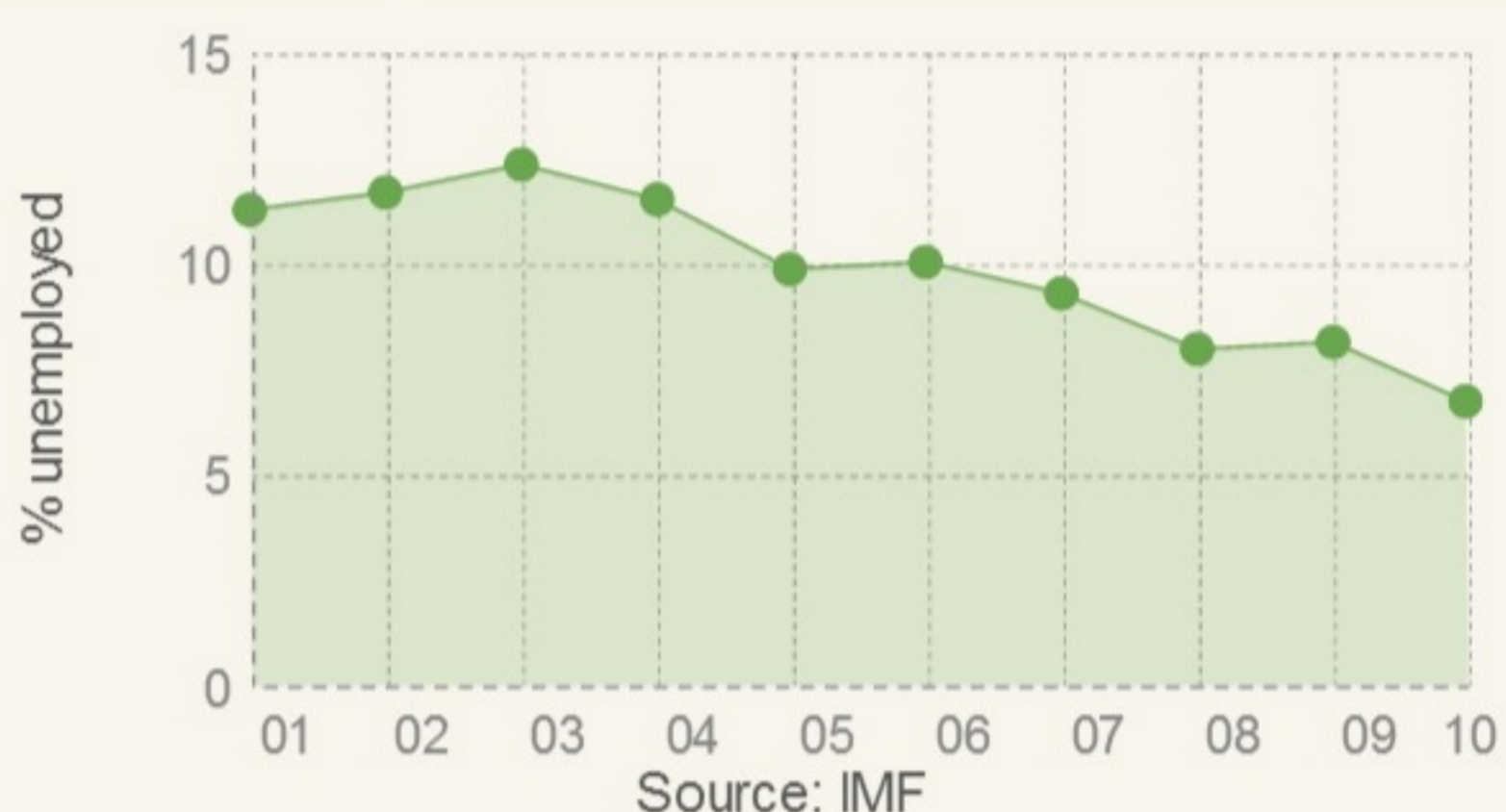
The GINI index fell from 60.13 in 2000 to 54.69 in 2009.

Hyperinflation has been tamed and jobs created



Inflation is under control

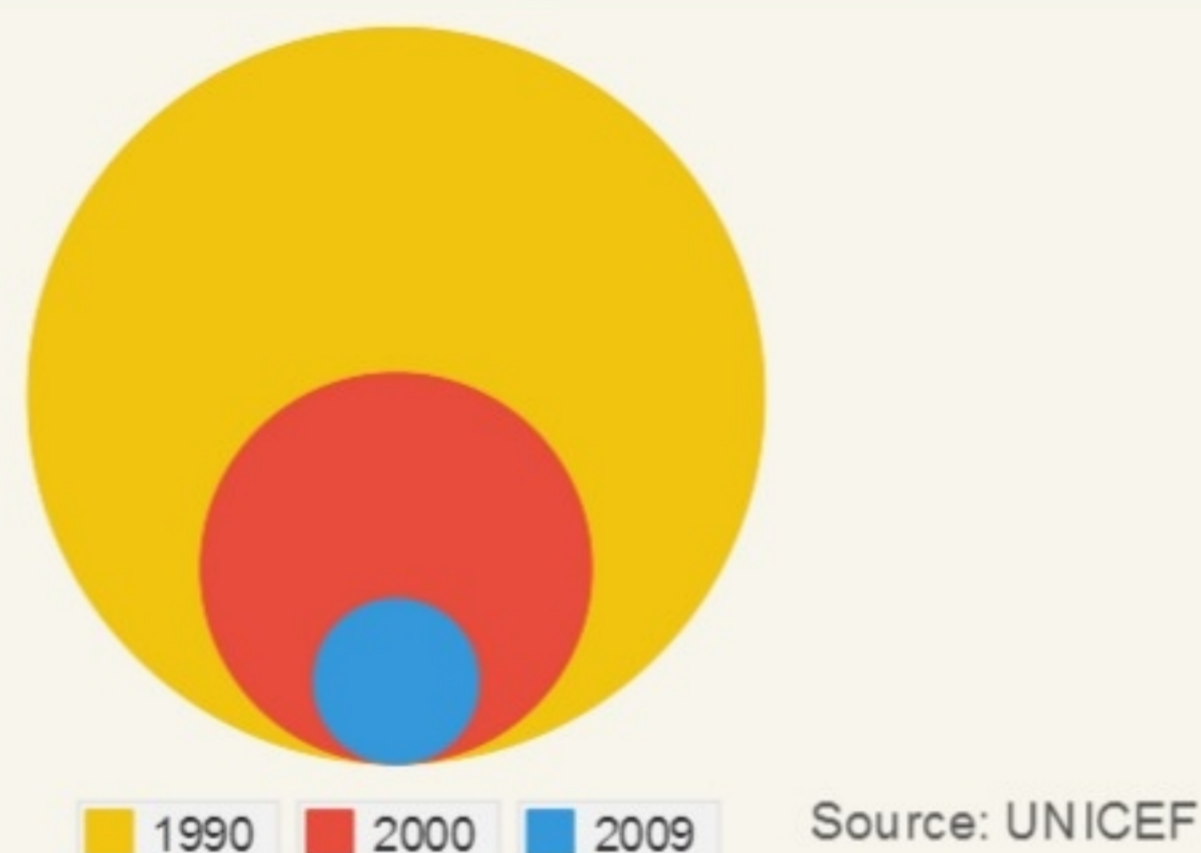
Hyperinflation devastated Brazil's economy and locked millions of people in poverty. The Real Plan introduced in the mid 90's largely resolved this problem. Subsequently a strong political consensus has resulted in stable fiscal policies.



Unemployment has fallen

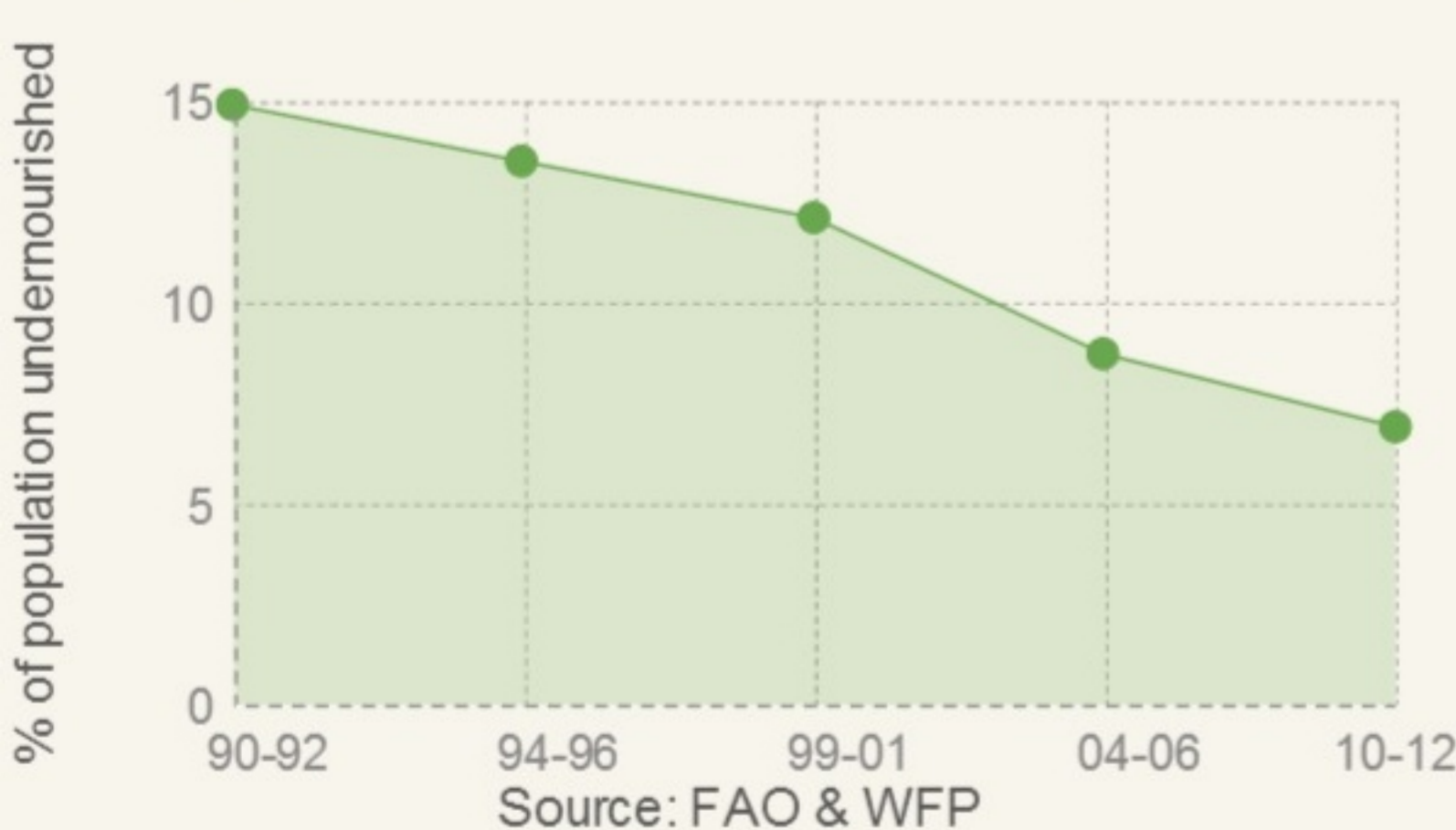
Headline economic growth rates have translated into tangible opportunities for people. Brazil currently has some of the lowest rates of unemployment in the world, with vocational training programmes such as SENAI making an impact.

Millions of Brazilians are benefiting



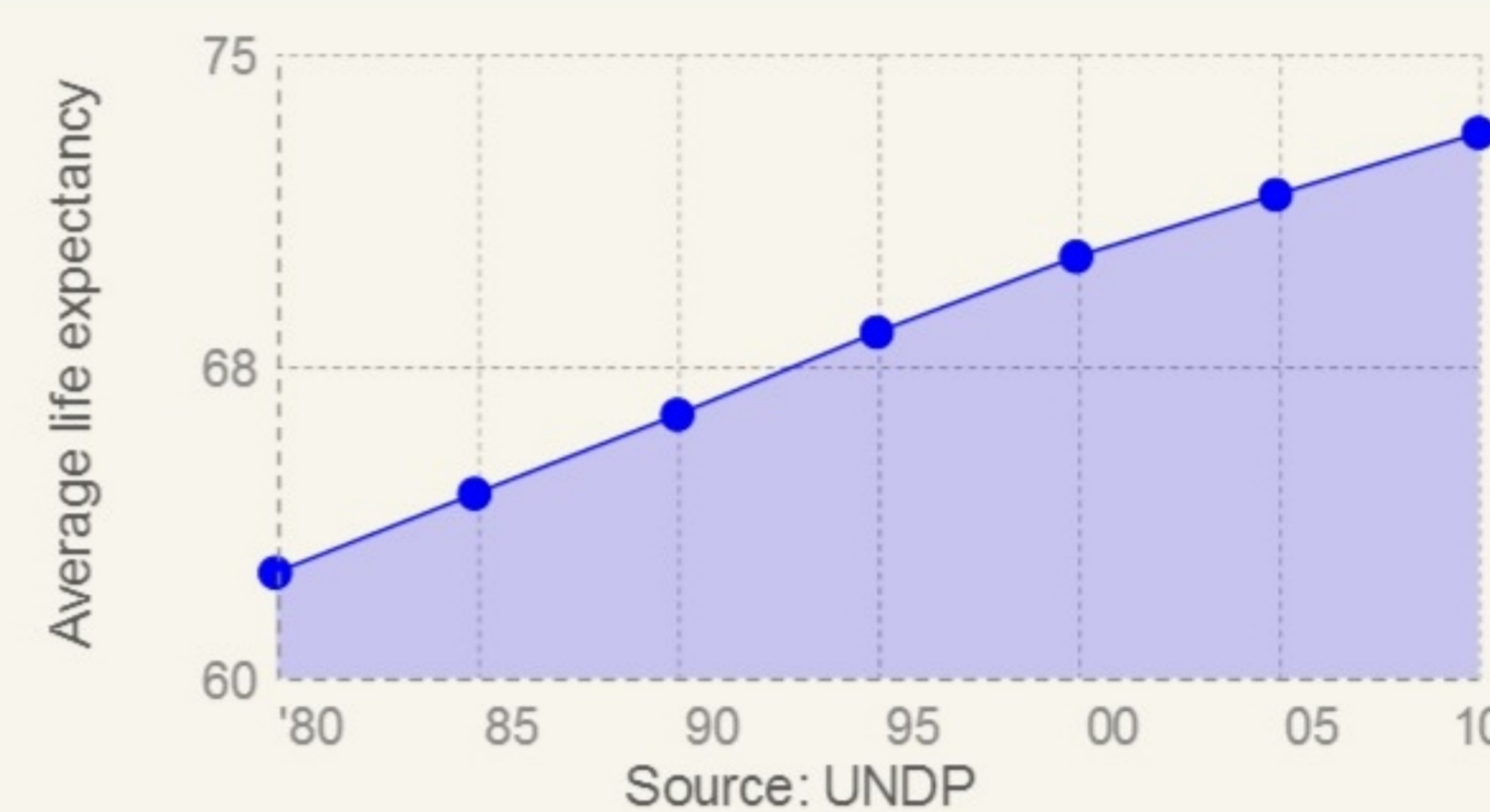
Child mortality has fallen

Child mortality has reduced by 77% since 1990, meaning Brazil is one of the few countries to achieve this Millennium Development Goal early.



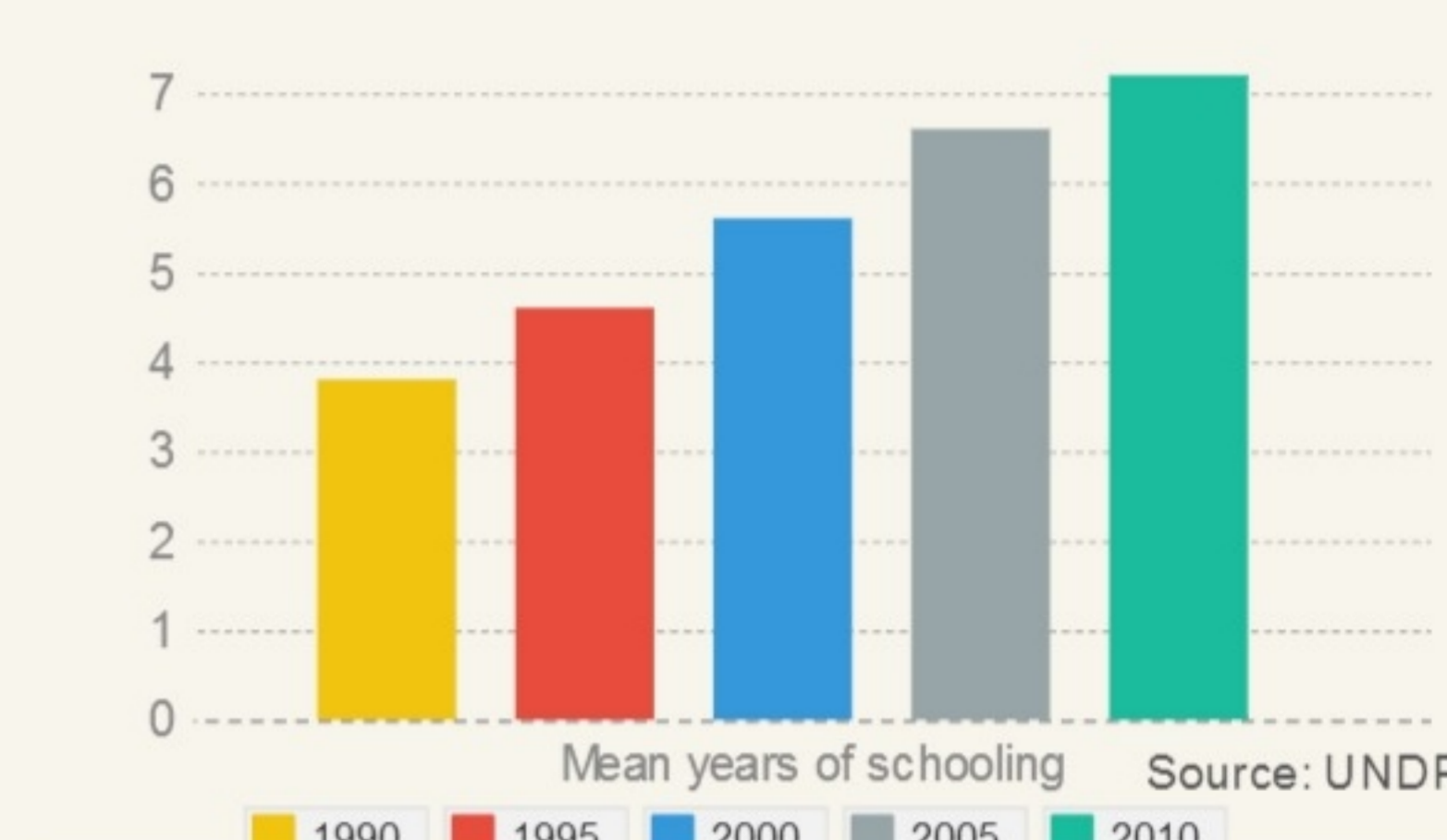
Hunger has fallen

Brazil has supported both family farms and agribusiness, resulting in hunger falling sharply. School feeding schemes, which procure crops directly from local family farms are amongst the innovative programmes the government has developed.



Life expectancy has risen

Improvements in public health care have helped Brazilians to live on average, almost ten years longer than they did in 1985.



Children spend longer in school

Increased investment in education, combined with making Bolsa Familia cash transfers conditional on attendance has seen many more children in school.

What can African countries learn from Brazil's inclusive growth and development?

Despite the progress, Brazil is far from perfect. The public are increasingly frustrated with the quality of public services and are demanding improvements. Yet Brazil's recent experience in actively addressing key social and economic problems hold useful lessons for African countries, grappling with many of the same issues.

In 2013 Brazil hosted 120 delegations, including many from Africa, wanting to learn more about programmes such as Bolsa Familia, school feeding and the Brazilian approach to tackling poverty.

The IRIBA project is supporting this interest amongst African policy makers and civil society by investigating the key elements underpinning Brazil's progress, then exploring what African countries could learn from the experience.